LIBERATION NEWS SERVICE

#508 March 14, 1973

Packet #508
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collective: anne dockery, beryl epstein, howie epstein, cidne hart, rozy melnicoff, sandy shea, mike shuster, jessica siegel, ron sirak

comrades: nancy stiefel, safra epstein, super, laurie lewis, mike franklin

correspondents: rosette coryell--paris
schofield coryell--paris
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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8--SAIGON HARASSES PRESS

Though the U.S. government has dismissed the situation as "a point of East and West not meeting," it is clear that Saigon wants to hide its continued harassment of liberated areas as well as isolate PRG representatives from the world press.

Several reporters who have visited liberated areas have said that Saigon attacks on those villages have continued after the cease-fire. Neil Davis, a photographer for Visnews, an international film agency, visited a liberated village for 24 hours early in February and told of a South Vietnamese helicopter that flew over and "sprayed the area, spewing bullets at the rate of 6,000 a minute, for 30 minutes as we sweated underground" (in a shelter).

Of course, foreign newsmen have not been the only ones harassed by Thieu. A report reaching Paris on February 9 revealed the arrest of 23 South Vietnamese newsmen who tried to enter the airfield where the PRG delegation is housed.

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10 -- THOMAS WANSLEY

his name. He's lucky in that respect. And maybe, by helping one, we can help all."

The Prisoners Solidarity Committee is launching a new campaign for Thomas Wansley. For more information contact the PSC at 1103 Floyd Avenue, Richmond, Va. 23220, (703) 353-1713.

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CBS CENSORS ANTI-WAR DRAMA;
"STICKS AND BONES" CALLED "UNNECESSARILY ABRASIVE"

LIBERATION News Service

NEW YORK (LNS)--TV watchers! On Friday, March 9 at nine o'clock, you could have turned on CBS to watch "Sticks and Bones", a play about a young veteran who comes home blind from Vietnam and tries unsuccessfully to make his well-to-do, Catholic family understand what he has experienced.

An advance review of the play in Newsweek, no champion of radicalism, said "I cannot recall anything on commercial television of an intensity comparable to this production."

But "Sticks and Bones" never made it on to your screen. Three days before it was scheduled to appear, Robert D. Wood, president of the CBS television network announced its cancellation on the grounds that:

"At this time [the play] might be unnecessarily abrasive to the feelings of millions of Americans whose lives or attention are at the moment emotionally dominated by the returning POWs and other veterans who have suffered the ravages of war."

Wood went on to say that "Sticks and Bones" would be rescheduled "when the context of its showing will be less distressing and its possible application to actual events less immediate."

Joesph Papp, producer of the play which was written by David Rabe and put on by the New York Shakespeare Festival, immediately branded the cance-lation "a cowardly cop-out, a rotten affront to freedom of speech and a whittling away at the First Amendment."

He then announced that he would have no further relationship with CBS despite a contract with the network which calls for him to produce several more plays for television.

Papp added that he would not be satisfied if the play appeared at a later date when the public might be "more in the mood" for it. "This is when they need to see it," he emphasized.

The play, which Newsweek went on to say would "drive a nail into your forehead and leave your face hanging like a sack from it all weekend long," explores the blind veteran's revulsion toward the war, loathing of himself, and hatred of his family's world of "little blue and pink pills," and "kitchens and sinks."

His family refuses to try to understand him, grows to resent him, and finally dispises him to the point where they wish him dead and then actually carry out their wish. Not your usual "I Love Lucy" fare.

There are very few media-watchers who haven't caught on to what the cancellation of "Sticks and Bones" represents: it is the first public case of the networks knuckling under to the local affiliates on a question of censorship.

There is no doubt where the affiliates got the idea to throw their weight around from either. The cancellation of "Sticks and Bones" is a direct result of the policy pronounced by Clay Whitehead of Nixon's Office of Telecommunications Policy (OTP), in a speech given on January 1. In that speech, Whitehead announced plans to present legislation to Congress that would make affiliate stations "responsible" at licensing time for the content of everything they show, including material distributed by the networks.

The way Whitehead put it, the broadcaster must be "substantially attuned to the [viewers] needs and interests in all his programs" and afford "reasonable, realistic and paractical opportunities for the presentation and discussion of conflicting views on controversial issues."

But no one was fooled. As one establishment magazine reported at the time of the speech, "one top newspaper editor senses that Mr. Nxion regards the press much as a major corporation executive views the company house organ: it should be docile, uncontroversial and wholeheartedly on the company's side."

And who else but Richard Nixon would be "unnecessarily abrased" by the production of "Sticks and Bones"; the man who has worked too hard manipulating the POW issue to allow it to be attacked by a prime-time anti-war play just as his returning prisoners are dominating the major media.

Nixon's attack on what he saw as adverse publicity began early in his administration when he unleashed Spiro Agnew on the "effete snobs" of the newspaper trade. Since then surprisingly, a lot has come out in the newspapers and TV about the Nixon administration--for instance, secret Republican campaign coffers, the Watergate Conspiracy, and the Grain Deal--to make the chief executive even more unhappy.

Beneath Whitehead's so-vague-as-to-sound liberal language, he is no less flamboyant than Agnew, with his references to the media's "ideological plugola" and "so-called professionals who confuse sensationalism with sense and who dispense elitist gossip in the guise of news analysis."

His proposed legislation, a very clever piece of work, is a way to cut down on or stop altogether the "bad news" that disturbs the president.

Whitehead's plan offers local stations two things they have been longing for. First, license renewal every five years instead of every three. This would bring considerable relief to local stations who have been under increasing pressure from blacks, women and other citizen groups challenging their licenses on grounds of racism, sexism, etc.

And secondly, the legislation would make it much more difficult for community groups to challenge licenses.

In exchange for these goodies, the administration asks that the local stations be strict in watchdogging any "biases" in their programming, particularly that which is provided by the three major networks, ABC, NBC, and CBS.

When asked in an interview with the New York Times what constituted "bias" Whitehead answered

that "even a housewife" would know what bias is; what "elitism" is. He repeated over and over that it would be "up to the local broadcaster" to "behave like a responsible community leader."

And Nixon has it under good authority that the vast majority of local TV stations do know what he considers to be "bias" for their political orientation is very similar to his.

Except for 15 TV stations owned and operated by the three networks (they are each allowed by law to own five local stations), local TV stations are owned and operated by a variety of interests. According to a recent study 77% of local TV stations are owned by "groups, cross-media [business interests that own a variety of media forms like newspapers, radio, TV and cable TV stations] and conglomerates."

According to a writer for Variety , a trade magazine for the communications and entertainment industries, "99% plus" of the affiliates are politically conservative Republican. For example, there's the Westinghouse broadcasting group which is a major defense contractor and the Taft group run by the famous Republican, conservative Taft family from Ohio.

So, when a play like "Sticks and Bones" comes along which is politically removed from what Nixon and the affiliates would like their audiences to see, they squawk. Squawking takes the form of threatening to preemt the network and put on an old movie instead, say "The Cincinnati Kid", which is what CBS replaced "Sticks and Bones" with.

In order to understand the local stations' power over the networks you have to know how the system works. Local stations or affiliates, "subscribe" to a network depending on them for national news, entertainment--in fact, a majority of their programming. In return, the local stations offer the network an audience to use as the necessary lure to get sponsors and advertisers for their programs.

For the networks, preemption means a smaller audience (or market) for those advertisers who have payed to sponsor the show. And if affiliates start to preempt, CBS can't go to a sponsor and say "We can guarantee X number of potential buyers will be watching "Bridget Loves Bernie" or "Walter Cronkite" because maybe they won't be.

What's worse, preemption may lead to a defection of affiliates from one network to another. Thus CBS would loose affiliates--and therefore audience outlets--if it didn't toe the affiliate line as it has chosen to do in the case of "Sticks and Bones."

A spokesman for CBS admitted that the reaction of the affiliate stations to the previews of "Sticks and Bones" had been "vigorous" and that "at last count, and the nuber is climbing rapidly, 69 of the 184 CBS affiliates that take the Friday network feed had defected--refused to carry the program."

CBS network president Woods said "never has there been a greater or more serious and responsible sense of concern expressed by our affiliates about a projected program and the timing of its broadcast."

Nixon's plan to encourage the local stations to watch out for that "bias" worked, even though the legislation hadn't even been passed yet.

The shelving of "Sticks and Bones" is not the first time that CBS' affiliates have balked at the station's work. Two years ago at a meeting of the affiliates the group voted [illegible] to 2 to object to the network's coverage of the Indochina War.

Of course the network themselves are hardly radical, inspite of what Nixon spokesmen may say. In the day to day operations of the networks, specific departments like Public Affairs or News may operate somewhat independently which can result in coverage like CBS' Watergate stories, or Grain Scandal pieces or documentary like The Selling of the Pentagon.

But when push comes to shove, the network owners are easily put in their place. As Joseph Papp said, in reference to the "Sticks and Bones" censorship, "I told Bob Wood, that even if every affiliate defected, he had an obligation to put the show on the air. Who is Wood, who is CBS to decide the mood of the country? They're accepting control by their affiliates, denying millions of their right to see an important work of art. This is implicitly a First Amendment issue."

And "Sticks and Bones" will not be the last to be overtly censored due to government displeasure with the little news, however, biased, that comes our way.

Cora Weiss of the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicement Detained in North Vietnam, told a group of anti-war activists that she failed to get one particular TV network to interview Andre Menras and Jean-Pierre Debris, two Frenchmen who had just arrived in New York to talk about the status of South Vietnamese prisoners in Thieu's prisons.

Menras and Debris had themselves spent more than two years in Saigon's Chi Hoa prison, after they were arrested for displaying an NLF flag and passing out anti-war leaflets in downtown Saigon.

Although Ms. Weiss did not name the network that absolutely refused to talk to the men, there is more than a good chance it was CBS. This incident occurred just about the time that "Sticks and Bones" censorship hit the news, and NBC did agree to talk to them.

The network spokesman that Ms. Weiss talked to said that while there might be news value in their story, an interview with these two men "would offend the sensibilities of returning American prisoners." --30--

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"The most widely prevalent myth about the television business is that it has to do with programming. It does not. Its product is not programming; its product is you. You are not the consumer; the advertiser is the consumer. The advertiser is buying audience, audience from the broadcaster (network or local station); you are sold to him like cattle--at a 'cost per thousand.' You are the product."

--maverick FCC Commissioner Nicholas Johnson

UFW DRIVE TO RECALL ARIZONA
GOVERNOR APPROACHES SHOWDOWN
DATE FOR SPECIAL ELECTION TO BE SET SOON

PHOENIX, Arizona (LNS)--For the first time in over 40 years and only the second time in the nation's history, a U.S. Governor may be recalled by the people of his state. Arizona Governor Jack Williams, a conservative Republican, faces that possibility.

The Citizens Committee for the Recall of Jack Williams has accumulated over 150,000 signatures on a recall petition, far more than the 103,000 needed to require a new election. It is expected that the Committee will file its petition by April 1. The Secretary of State of Arizona then has 30 days to set a date for the recall election, where anyone who gets 40,000 signatures can get on the ballot to oppose Williams.

The recall move started last May when Williams ignored pleas by the United Farm Workers Union to veto an Arizona farm labor bill that made strikes and boycotts during harvest time illegal. By September the Committee had passed the 103,000 mark but chose to gather an extra 50,000 signatures as insurance.

The UFW campaign to unseat Williams gained momentum quickly. Environmentalists joined the recall drive, noting that Williams had been publicly criticized by even the Environmental Protection Agency for failing to take action against polluters, most notably strip mines and smelters.

Similarly, social workers and liberal law oriented groups joined, pointing out that Williams had twice vetoed OEO funds for the Maricopa County (Phoenix) Legal Aide Society and that he was holding back money appropriated for welfare.

Many teachers around the state were upset that Williams had cut back on funds to schools, a move which many felt reduced the educational standards of the state. Many high school teachers also resent having to teach mandatory courses in private enterprise.

In time, some 30 different organizations, representing a cross section of interests, aligned themselves with the Citizen's Committee to Recall Jack Williams.

In the early stages of the recall drive establishment forces in Arizona directed their attacks on the move at UFW president Cesar Chavez. The Arizona Republic and the Phoenix Gazette continually referred to Chavez as an "outsider" and a "troublemaker."

As it has become apparent that a recall election will be held, however, Williams people have resorted to tactics other than name calling. A recent Arizona Supreme Court decision upheld a move by the county recorders to strike from their rolls 213,000 registered voters who failed to vote in the November election.

Since Nixon won the state by landslide proportions, it is likely that most of these 213,000 are Democrats (or people to the left of Democrats) who decided to sit out the election. This means that recall forces will have to mount an intensive re-registration [illegible] to regain a significant Democratic lead.

A prime force in the move to strike these voters from the lists has been Maricopa County Recorder Paul Marston, a Republican and an open supporter of Williams. Marston has consistently hampered registration registration with procedures his critics charge are a "throwback to the literacy tests of the Deep South."

After receiving [illegible] telegrams from Congressmen demanding an investigation, a preliminary study of the situation was ordered by the civil rights division of the Department of Justice. The FBI began the probe several weeks ago, looking for violations of the U.S. Voting Rights Act and the Civil Rights Act by Marston's office in appointing deputy registrars.

Marston has, in effect, set up an obstacle course for potential deputy registrars at a time when registration is a key to a successful recall election. He has instituted a 200 question exam which several lawyers and competent former deputy registrars have failed.

The test consists mainly of confusing and misleading questions such as: "If a deputy registrar does not register anyone in 60 days, he is guilty of: A) Misfeasance B) Malfeasance C) Nonfeasance D) None of the above."

Testimony in a Superior Court suit indicated that the testing standard demanded was far above the functional literacy rate. On the average, a partial college education was required for passage, an Arizona State University reading expert testified.

Last year at this time there were about 1,200 Democratic deputy registrars as compared to about 50 at present. There are 1,300 openings.

In another effort to block the recall move, the state legislature recently attempted to pass a bill that would have placed specific regulations on recall elections. Added to the bill was an emergency clause that provided that with the Governor's signature the bill would become law within 60 days.

If it had passed it would have invalidated many of the 150,000 signatures collected but the move failed when, for the first time in many years, House Democrats voted as a block. They defeated the clause and passed the bill on to the Senate.

All indications are that Senate Democrats will prevent efforts to restore the clause to the bill. Without the emergency clause the bill is no threat to the current recall drive since it will become law after the petitions are filed. It will, however, greatly water down the Arizona recall law for future attempts at such action.

Recall forces expect even more opposition from well financed groups after their petition is filed, especially from the Facts Against Irresponsible Recall (FAIR) Committee. The organ-

ization is headed by Steven Shadegg, a shrewd professional who has run several top Republican campaigns including those of Senator Barry Goldwater.

But in spite of all these anti-recall efforts, the recall candidate, Jerry Pollock, a Phoenix lawyer, appears to have a chance of winning. The campaign has intensified its registration effort and tightened up its statewide organization with Pollock continuing to emphasize the Governor's "lack of leadership" on issues of environment, welfare, taxation, health and education as well as his support for anti-farm worker legislation.

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(Thanks to Mary Ellen Simonson and New Times in Tempe, Arizona for much of the info in this story.)

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1500 TENNESSEE WOMEN USED AS GUINEA PIGS FOR DANGEROUS CONTRACEPTIVE: FDA IS SLOW TO ACT

NEW YORK (LNS)--Over 1,500 women in the state of Tennessee, including 250 mentally retarded women at Arlington Hospital and School (a state institute near Memphis), have been given a drug for contraception which has been shown to cause breast cancer in beagles and which may cause permanent sterility.

The drug is Depo-Provera (trade name for medroxylprogesterone acetate). It is manufactured by Upjohn Company and is approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) only for use in the treatment of a precancerous inflamation of the uterus and terminal cancer of the uterine lining.

Until this year, however, shipments of Depo-Provera from the Upjohn Co. contained no warning notice that the use of the drug as a contraceptive is still experimental or about its possible side effects. Also, the Physician's Desk Reference (PDR -- published by drug companies and used by many doctors as a standard reference when prescribing medication) did not publish a warning that Depro-Provera does not have FDA approval for use as a contraceptive.

FDA standards for controlling a drug that can be marketed but which has "unapproved" uses has been consistently lax. According to the FDA, a new drug can't be promoted while it is still experimental and before all the side effects are explored. The company sponsoring a new drug is supposed to keep careful records of the amount, where, to whom, when, etc., each shipment of the drug was sent. So even though drugs that have unapproved uses (such as the use of Depo-Provera as a contraceptive) should be controlled [illegible] as closely as completely uninvestigated drugs, they are not.

Dr. Stewart Fish of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Tennessee School of Medicine and Dr. Leonard Brooks, formerly the Family Planning Clinic physician for five counties near Arlington, admitted in testimony before the FDA that they advised Arlington Hospital and School to issue Depo-Provera as a contraceptive even though they knew that use was not FDA-approved.

In his capacity as the Family Planning Clinic physician Dr. Brooks prescribed the drug to many women for the purpose of birth control. According to Tennessee Board of Health figures, 1,500 women in [illegible] given the drug. According [illegible] Arlington Hospital and School [illegible] given to these mentally retarded women for [illegible] reasons" to prevent [illegible] having their periods and as a con[illegible] is convenient [illegible] administered as an i[illegible] lasts for three months.

Mar[illegible] with the Center for Law and Social Policy, a public-interest group in Washington, went to Tennessee in January after the Center learned that Depo-Provera was being used there. She interviewed six women who went to the Family Planning Clinic of the Cumberland County Health Department for birth control and found that five of the women had been given Depo-Provera. The sixth had been advised of its availability. None of them had been warned that the use of the drug as a contraceptive was experimental nor were they told of the side effects that the drug might have. Women who have taken it have reported dizziness, nervousness, irritability, headaches and backaches. Others have suffered heavy bleeding or spotting.

One of the Cumberland County women, a mother of three, was visited several times in her home by county nurses who did not want her to have another baby and urged her emphatically to go to the clinic for a birth control shot.

Another woman who was given Depo-Provera at the clinic already has one child and is on welfare. Her case worker told her that the Welfare Department did not want to support another child, instructed her to go to the Family Planning clinic for birth control and to take the "shot" because she might forget to take birth control pills. After her second shot she experienced heavy bleeding, dizziness and backaches. She was never told about possible dangers or side effects.

One woman had to be hospitalized three times for severe headaches and heavy bleeding.

Unfortunately it doesn't look like anything will be done to stop the unapproved use of Depo-Provera. Due to a Senate investigation, Upjohn has said that it will no longer ship the drug to the hospital and family clinics in Tennessee but it is not putting any tighter control on who else it ships the drug to. The hospital intends to continue using the supply of Depo-Provera that it has.

Depo-Provera is not the only case of this kind of drug misuse. Only recently, headlines were made when it came to light that diethyl silbesterol (DES), a synthetic hormone shown to cause cancer in rats, was being prescribed in many University clinics as a morning-after pill even though the FDA had not approved the drug for that use. DES had already been banned from use as a growth stimulant in beef cattle because of its carcinogenic effects, but recently the FDA approved its use as a contraceptive.

The Senate Health Subcommittee announced after a hearing on human experimentation that it will propose legislation and the Center for Law and Social Policy will submit their own proposal for an effective bill controlling the uses of experimental drugs. But legislative machinery is slow and in the meantime...

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From: LNS

Two LNS staffers came to LNS 9 months ago, after working at the Lancaster Independent Press in Lancaster, Pa. "Before I came to LNS," one of them said, "I used to think of the LNS packet as something that arrived in the mail twice a week with monotonous regularity." Monotonous indeed.

A friend recently told us that the first time he came to the LNS office he expected a typewriter to answer the door. He knows better now. And of course we knew all along that the door is answered by whoever is nearest to it when someone knocks.

We tend to take our goings on for granted. As a result, too many of our friends and subscribers, not to mention potential friends and subscribers, know very little about us--who we are, how we work, what we think. To most we are a group of faceless people involved in an unfathomable operation.

So we are going to try to demystify ourselves and our work. We made a similar attempt in March of 1972 and those of you who have subscribed to LNS since then may find some of this redundant. But there are many among you who are less familiar with LNS, and maybe this will help you get to know us better.

This will not be the complete story of LNS, with all the grim and glorious details. That would take more time and space than we have available right now; and it would probably tax your endurance as well as our brains.

* * *

Liberation News Service, which started out in Washington in the summer of 1967, was the creation of Marshall Bloom and Ray Mungo, both former college newspaper editors whose politics veered toward the left. By late September they had acquired the staff, money and equipment necessary to publish their first issue. It was mimeographed on several sheets of 8 1/2 by 11" purple and white paper, and mailed to some 100 subscribers, underground papers across the country.

By the summer of 1968, LNS had moved to New York City, joining its branch office there. And shortly after the move, came the split. Bloom and several of his friends went off to a farm in Montague, Massachusetts, taking the press, the files and the money, leaving the New York staff to fend for themselves.

Why the split? The New York staff wanted to collectivize LNS and solidify its politics. Bloom, who thought of LNS as his own, resisted the change. Ray Mungo, who sided with Bloom, later described the conflict in his book, Famous Long Ago. "Their method of running the news service was the Meeting and the Vote. Ours was magic. We lived on magic and still do, and I have to say it beats anything systematic."

But beating the system proved harder than anticipated. Although the "Virtuous Caucus" published several issues of LNS from the farm in Montague, eventually their magic failed. Winter came, the press froze in a barn, and LNS-Mass. died in February of 1969.

[illegible] later, the [illegible] as Mungo [illegible] in the same New York [illegible] on Claremont Avenue.

[illegible] has grown in the last [illegible] years. The packet itself is larger and so is the mailing list, which now includes [illegible] 650 subscribers, most of them publishing some kind of alternative paper.

And LNS has changed. Although the Virtuous Majority failed to recapture the press, the files and the money, they succeeded in forming a collective, which still [illegible]. At this writing, in March of 1973, there are [illegible] people on the LNS collective, 6 women and 2 men.

Just [illegible] there are quite as many women as men is not an accident. Three and a half years ago the LNS staff was almost all male. With few exceptions, the women on the collective cooked, typed and answered the phone. At meetings most of them were silent.

This situation existed among the Virtuous and Vulgar alike, until, spurred by the growing women's movement, LNS decided to increase the number of women on the staff and expand their roles. Over time, more women came to LNS to replace men who had dropped out, until, several months after the initial decision, the staff decided to preserve an existing ratio of two women to one man.

We had found through painful experience that simple equality in numbers, half men, half women, did not guarantee real equality. It only meant that there were more women to type stories written by men, more women to listen at meetings while men expounded.

With the decision to expand women's roles, women began to write difficult stories, learn graphics skills and operate heavy machinery. But as long as there were plenty of more experienced, confident men around to compete for these tasks, women had a hard time. Conversely, when there were fewer men, women seemed to learn more rapidly. And the men--if they had harbored doubts before--were faced with living proof that women could handle the increased responsibilities.

Another factor entered into the decision. People who work at LNS have the opportunity to learn editing, graphics and printing skills. This kind of opportunity is rarely open to a woman--the cards are stacked against her from the beginning. We stack the cards the other way: we try to guarantee more than equal opportunity because almost everyone else offers less.

So six of us are women--what else? We come from the Northeast--New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Massachusetts and Vermont. We are pretty much children of the middle class. In any case, we are all white, all "college material" as the guidance counselors like to say. Most of us went to college and dropped out after a few years. Two women actually have B.A.s; another barely finished high school. Our oldest is 40; the youngest,

We didn't plan to be [illegible] as we are and in the past LNS has broken the barrier of geography and class (among others), if only slightly. No doubt we will do it again. Also we'd like to be a lot larger; ideally the collective would include about 16 people.

Of the 9 people currently at LNS, 4 have been on the staff for more than three years. The newest staff members came just under a year ago. In the course of 5 years, many others come and went, some staying only a few weeks, others years. Most came to LNS as refugees from schools or straight jobs, others came after working on underground newspapers.

All of us came to LNS because we wanted to do political work. Some deliberately chose to become or remain involved in movement journalism (including graphics and printing). Others simply looked for some alternative, stumbled on LNS, liked it and stayed. All of us wanted to work in the kind of collective situation that exists at LNS.

The LNS collective isn't a living collective. But we eat our weekday meals (lunch and dinner) together and we live in small groups in apartments near our office on Manhattan's upper west side. Basically we are a working collective.

* * *

A typical work week at LNS begins at 9:00 Monday morning with an editorial meeting. We start by criticizing the last LNS packet, the one we printed and mailed the previous Friday. After we go over each story and graphic, the Packet Coordinator (PC) takes over. (Every two weeks the editorial department designates a packet coordinator to supervise the production of copy for the packet. There are three departments at LNS--editorial, graphics and printing).

The PC comes tothe editorial meeting with a pile of potential LNS stories including: stories written by LNS correspondents (we have one full-time paid correspondent, the other contributors donate their time); press releases and unsolicited stories; articles from other organizations and news services for example, Pacific News Service (which provides mostly material about the West Coast and Asia), the College Press Service, Canadian University Press, Community Press Service, Vietnam News Agency (from Hanoi)and Direct from Cuba.

Quite a bit of the material in the PC's pile will be edited or excerpted for immediate use, the rest of it will be filed for future reference.

But before distributing this copy for reading and editing, the Packet Coordinator solicits ideas for stories. Some ideas will be accepted without much collective discussion but others will require some talking out:

Is this a story LNS subscribers want or need? Will it have to be done immediately or can it wait? Do we have the time or the resources? Will it require travel and can we afford it? Will we have to find someone else to write it for us, someone closer to the scene, someone more qualified than any of us? Who? How long should the story be? What points should be emphasized?

After all the ideas are aired, the assignments are distributed, all the editors taking roughly equal shares of the work. People tend to volunteer for stories related to subjects that interest them or that they have had the most experience with. Usually these two factors overlap, and when there is some question about who should do the job, both factors are weighed.

Most people at LNS, most editors at least, have some field that they specialize in. It could be Africa, Vietnam, labor, trials, prisons, consumer affairs, etc. But no one works exclusively in one area and no one works completely alone. Each LNS story is edited by at least two people, and sometimes two or three people collaborate on the writing as well. It's never a case of one person going off to a secluded spot to write "their" story by themselves.

After the editorial meeting, most of the editors head for the typewriters, but one editor goes through the underground papers that have come in the mail looking for articles for reprinting and checking to see which LNS stories and graphics have been picked up by subscribers. Straight papers are read and articles clipped for the files.

Someone from the graphics department will go through the underground papers too, looking for cartoons and drawings. The graphics staff was at the editorial meeting, so they know (more or less) what stories will be going into the packet, and they try to find graphics--photographs and drawings --to go with the copy in addition to graphics that stand on their own. Sometimes they find something in our own files--photos by LNS staff photographers or contributors who send us graphics through the mail. Other times someone will have to get on the phone or drive downtown to get what we need.

The graphics department has its own meeting to discuss which graphics to print (gathering opinions from the rest of the staff in case of a deadlock) and how to distribute the work. Someone will have to do the copy-camera work, preparing the graphics pages for the printers. There will be other work as well--developing film, drawing a map to go with a complicated story, ordering more supplies, etc.

The editorial and graphics departments have deadlines to meet--a certain volume of work must be ready to print by a certain time. It will probably be almost midnight before everyone can go home Monday night.

There is usually nothing to print on Monday afternoon so the printers distribute themselves where needed, editing and doing odd jobs. By Tuesday afternoon the printers set up the presses, and if all goes well, the entire packet will be printed by 7 or 8 o'clock. Half the collective gets the night off, and the other half stays till 10:00 or so, collating the packets, and stuffing them into envelopes.

Wednesday we have a collective meeting, which usually lasts about four hours. We talk about finances, present and future. We talk about personnel

--how to find new people to work at LNS, how to better organize our schedule. We discuss ideas for trips and projects, and who should do them. We talk about business matters that require collective decisions--a new lease, an old book contract, a used car.

But sometimes we abandon the usual agenda and devote the Wednesday meeting to political discussion--about African liberation moevements, for example, or Nixon's new economy.

The Thursday-Friday schedule duplicates the Monday-Tuesday schedule, and the weekends are free --almost. There is often work left over from the previous week--letters to write, tapes to transcribe, filing, etc.

Most of the work directly related to the packet production is divided departmentally, but there are a lot of other jobs that are shared collectively. Some are assigned to one person on a fairly permanent basis--like the bookkeeping or the general office correspondence. Some jobs rotate--like filing the underground papers or taking care of Safra, the two year old daughter of two staff members. Other jobs are distributed without a real system--like cooking dinner, or going to the post office. There is plenty to do and one way or another everyone does more than their share. We work about 60 hours a week, for a fat $35.

Working at LNS is really more than a full time job, and it isn't always an easy one.

One constant pressure is money, or rather the lack of it. In 1972 the LNS budget was $75,000, down from $85,000 the year before. Two thirds of that income came from subscriptions. The other $25,000 we had to raise independently. We needed more but we got by on the smaller budget by tightening belts all around, sometimes till it hurt. We weren't able to replace any of our antiquated equipment for example, or do all the traveling we wanted to. Here our lack of numbers hurt as well, because if we had more people on the staff we could do more on-the-spot reporting and photography.

This doesn't mean that working at LNS is constant hardship and frustration. It's a hard job, but not impossible. And although our commitment to our work and each other is strong, we enjoy our work and we have fun too.

* * *

The people who read LNS are an incredibly diverse group. We have subscribers from the Jersey suburbs where high school students are printing their own paper, to San Quentin where the LNS packets are passed around and discussed in prisoners' study groups. We have several foreign subscribers but mostly we have domestic subscribers who publish papers (and reprint LNS) for women, working people, third world communities, students, gay people and many many others.

Our purpose is to to serve these subscribers -- to be a radical news service providing graphics and copy for the alternative press -- to keep people informed and aware.

In the past some people at LNS wanted the LNS packets to fill a void in movement journalism and become a more theoretical/analytical journal, providing a more "politically developed" subscribers with a forum for advanced discussion. This would have meant, they admitted, cutting our subscription list by well over half.

The rest of us disagreed with this emphasis. First of all we felt that while such a journal was a valid idea, there was still a need for an alternative news service that would simply publish news for people who couldn't depend on their local establishment media to provide it. We felt that our news coverage, from and for the left, was still necessary. People still need the information about political prisoners, dangerous drugs, Indochina and the Third World, that we provide.

We also felt that our day-to-day work here in our New York City basement didn't provide us with the "practice" that generates real political theory. It would be presumptuous for us to determine how to organize American workers or to try to define the direction of the anti-war movement. We reasoned that aided by the information LNS provides, people in their own communities could and should make their own decisions on the issues that affect them. Feedback from subscribers over the past year indicates that for the most part they agree with our orientation

LNS is not a party and in fact has always been independent of any political organization (except for a brief period in 1968-69 when it was the Tom Paine chapter of SDS). We don't define our politics with a platform or a program. But by reading the LNS packets, people can tell where we stand o politically. Each story has at least one political point to make.

In LNS, when Nixon cuts the budget to eliminate poverty programs it is a class and race issue. And when day-care facilities are shut down, sexism is there as well. U.S. involvement in Vietnam is not an unfortunate mistake, it is the policy of imperialism.

Of course the burden of proof is with us. We have to show imperialism at work, not just announce that it exists. We can't depend on political rhetoric and jargon to do our work for us. In the end, rhetoric only obscures issues and alienates the reader. It makes far more sense, for example, to show how a judge's words and courtroom record show him to be racist, than to label him a racist without any explanation.

* * *

Nowadays many people are saying that the underground press is dead, but we know from our own experience that rumors of this death have been greatly exaggerated. It's true that the day of the peace-love-good vibes papers is over. Many papers in major cities have folded -- but others have sprung up in their place and elsewhere. While there is no Old Mole in Boston anymore, there is a Borrowed Times in Missoula, Montana where there was no paper before. We think that the underground press has changed, and developed into a more solid political presence in many communities. As for us, we like to think that LNS has been a part of this development and will remain a part for some time to come. (end)

CHICANO ACTIVISTS TO BE TRIED IN COLO. POLICE STATION BOMBING: EVIDENCE "LARGELY CIRCUMSTANTIAL"

FORT LUPTON, Colo. (LNS) -- A small charge of dynamite exploded in an unmanned police station in Ft. Lupton, Colorado, the night of March 9, 1971. No one was hurt, although some property was damaged. No one claimed responsibility for the blast and witnesses were unable to give more than a vague description of the people who fled after the explosion.

Then one year later, on March 10, 1972 two Chicanos, Anselmo Peralto 27, and Raymond Roybal, 29, were arrested and charged with illegal use of explosives and unlawful destruction of property.

Anselmo's trailer was surrounded and entered by 13 armed Boulder and Weld County police officers, who held cocked guns to the heads of the unresisting Anselmo and his wife, and arrested them. Raymond Roybal was arrested in similar fashion in Salt Lake City, Utah, where he had been looking for a job.

Bail for the two was originally set at $100,000 but was lowered to $10,000 because of the nature of the evidence against them. District Attorney Robert Miller was quoted as saying that "the evidence is largely circumstantial."

* * *

Ft Lupton is a small town located in a conservative agricultural area in northern Colorado. Chicanos, who make up about 25% of the population, are naturally the poorest in the town and many of them remember the signs displayed in restaurants and barber shop windows until well into the 50's: "No Mexicans or Dogs Allowed."

However, Chicano activism has increased in recent years in the southwest, and it has even reached small towns like Ft. Lupton.

Anselmo Peralta and Raymond Roybal had been actively involved in the United Mexican American Students at the University of Colorado in Boulder especially over the issue of parity for Chicanos on campus.

Chicanos make up about 12% of the Colorado population, but out of the 20,000 students at Colorado University there were fewer than 30 Chicanos enrolled in 1968. Due to U.M.A.S. protests and demonstrations, their enrollment has increased to nearly 1000.

Anselmo and Raymond were also involved in organizing protests against police brutality and discriminating practices against Chicanos in the courts. Research done by U.M.A.S. showed that out of 468 people arrested between June 1968 and April 1970, 327 were Chicano, although Chicanos make up only one-quarter of Ft. Lupton's population.

It seems to many people that Anselmo's and Raymond's prominence in U.M.A.S. activities earned them the hostility of county and state police officials, and pinpointed them for police harrassment.

Raymond and Anselmo's trials are to start soon. One judge has already had to disqualify himself from hearing the case because of affidavits filed against him that exposed his racist attitudes. He had been overheard in 1967 saying to members of the Weld County D.A.'s office, "Did you see that Mexican with long hair and long sideburns trying to tell me he was innocent?"

Denver, Boulder and Ft. Lupton newspapers have played a role in mobilizing public opinion against the two activists before their trials. The Ft. Lupton Press said after the bombing: "A week ago we warned in these columns that the long-smouldering feud between police and some of the younger elements of the Hispano community in Fort Lupton seemed to be near the flash-point. Tuesday night someone set off a bomb in the Fort Lupton police station.

"We're sorry, and disappointed, that someone decided to make good prophets of us."

Contributions can be sent to the Anselmo Peralta and Raymond Roybal Defense Committee, c/o The Crusade for Justice, 1567 Downing St., Denver, Colo. 80218, and letters of protest to the presiding judge, The Honorable Earl A. Wolvington, District Court, Court House, Sterling, Colo.

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SAIGON GOV'T HARRASSES FOREIGN PRESS WITH CHARGES OF "UN-VIETNAMESE" ACTIVITIES

SAIGON (LNS)-- A Saigon Government official recently confirmed reports that a United Press International reporter is being expelled from the country for what was termed "un-Vietnamese activities." The governemnt spokesman also stated that the government was considering similar actions against several other foreign newsmen.

The official said on March 7 that the visa of Donald A. Davis, acting bureau chief of UPI in Saigon, will not be renewed when it expires. Davis said that he was given seven days to leave the country.

The expulsion is indicative of the Thieu government's increasingly hostile attitude towards foreign press. The Thieu spokesman admitted that similar actions against the National Broadcasting Company, the Los Angeles Times and Agence France-Presse were "under consideration".

Thieu's spokesmen have never clearly defined what "un-Vietnamese activities" are except to say that actions that "undermine the security" of the Saigon government fall into that classifictaion.

All of the foreign news agencies named by the government official have been involved in a dispute with the Saigon government over the right of newsmen to visit North Vietnamese and PRG delegations to the Joint Military Commission. A government spokesman, according to the New York Times, had warned newsmen that they might be shot by military police if they attempted to visit the North Vietnamese and PRG representatives.

Several of the reporters involved in the current dispute have visited liberated areas of the South and have written articles about the torture of political prisoners by the Thieu government based on interviews with recently released prisoners.

CONTINUED ON THE INSIDE FRONT COVER---

(Note to Editors: See graphics section this packet for photos to accompany this article.)

"GET THE HOUSING AND HOLD IT"
SQUATTERS MOVE [illegible]

(Editor's Note: The Housing Crisis is developing into a major issue across the country as the Nixon administration is moving to cut back the funding for public housing even more.

Having already impounded many allocations by Congress for housing in 1972, Nixon announced an "18-month freeze" on public housing allocations on January 8, 1973. He also announced that all Model Cities and other urban development programs will be halted by June 1973.

His rationale is that the job of providing housing is better left to the private sector. And there is no doubt that the "private sector" can provide housing. The question is, who for?

Experience has shown, that given the opportunity, private industry will eagerly build for the rich: sprawling developments in the suburbs and high-rise apartments in the cities. They do this at the expense of the poor, whose "bad housing" is torn down under the guise of "urban renewal" or is "rehabilitated" only to be replaced by expensive apartments for the rich or by small, chic apartments for "young singles" who are willing to pay a high price to be in the middle of things. Rarely are an equivalent number of low income, family size swellings provided to replace the "renewed" or "rehabilitated" ones.

Faced with the fact that there are fewer and fewer housing units available to poor and working class people with families, a movement has developed which has tried to attack the problem: squatters.

Squatters movements which exist in Latin America, Northern Ireland, Italy, have developed into an important political event in many communities in this country as well.

In New York especially, where housing is a perpetual crisis, the squatters movement is growing all the time.

The following is excerpted from the Tenant's Survival Book (Bobbs-Merrill, N.Y. 1972, $3.95) by Emily Jane Goodman, an attorney associated with the Women's Law Center. These excerpts describe the experiences of some squatters--how they did it and what they learned.)

NEW YORK (LNS)--Juanita Kimble and her nine children took over an eight-room Columbia University owned apartment. The apartment had been empty and was being held "off the market." the Kimbles had the support of the neighbors and the community, and had broad press coverage. After months of pressure, Columbia had to turn on essential services and eventually recognize the tenancy.

About the same time, apartments in downtown buildings owned by the New York Eye and Ear Infirmary were taken over by squatters. The hospital intended to demolish the building to build a nurses' residence. The "institutional landlord" had emptied the building through the "psychological eviction" of the previous occupants.

As described by Donna Peacock, one of the people involved: "There was this tremendous speculation going on in the city, low-income houses being [illegible] people and all of the [illegible] totally disregarded. [illegible] tear gas dropped [illegible] guns and [illegible] pinschers. The whole [illegible]

[illegible] of being completely ignored [illegible] in the community got an [illegible] squatting [illegible] only thing possible [illegible] getting desperate. We couldn't afford anything. We had no place to go. So we *took* city apartments since the city didn't respond to our needs."

Another squatter, Joe Rivera, who said he'd rather spend 20 years in jail than voluntarily leave his new home, says: "there is one prime objective and that's to get the housing and hold it. You don't have anything without that. In other words, Keep the place. Use anything you can within the system to do that. Because if you don't have the housing, you don't have anything. You have an ideal only.

One thing that's very important is that our community groups and church groups and so forth act in support of the people. It has to be a people's movement and not just leadership from these groups. They just have to commit themselves to support the people. It works."

The West Side squatters in New York grew out of an urban-renewal project that evicted thousands of poor families from the neighborhood and them allowed only a small fraction of the new housing to go to the poor.

"Operation Move-in" on the Upper West side started the day of Jimmy Santos' funeral. Jimmy Santos was a sixteen-year-old crippled boy who was asphyxiated while waiting for the boiler beneath his bedroom on 116th Street to be fixed.

"We don't blame only the landlady," a squatter said. "We blame the city, because this family had already asked for better housing and they had been denied. The Santos family needed a safe place to live and so did we. So we planned a funeral march for Jimmy Santos. After the march we planned to take our first building. We took the furniture and we moved the family into one of the buildings that the city had closed and that's when we started squatting. Now people are liberating buildings all over the west side to show that they have the right to live how they want. I wish I could liberate a whole neighborhood, a whole 20-block area.

"We will work at our own thing and we will have complete control. This is what the people want. People were too afraid before and that is the reason why they were not organized But they see you can fight City Hall. You can fight anybody you want. This is what we need. We love it and we're going to come back in because this is where we are born, raised and here we are to stay, and that is where it's at!"

The best moment, said one woman watching as people started moving into a building to be taken over, "is when the first squatters in the building rush to the windows on the second, or third, or fourth floor, hang their flags and banners from the windows and

call to the others: 'Don't be a coward. Come up, come up, come up.' Others watch from the street and then decide to follow.

"Most of us are [illegible] a lot of children, and who didn't have time [illegible] active in the community [illegible] we [illegible] the fact that with children we [illegible] no [illegible] Now is the time that we go [illegible] what we believe and find out what [illegible] and why we are in the condit[illegible] we are. Where money comes from and where it go[illegible]"

Barbara [illegible], a [illegible]wyer who worked with squatter groups, said, "Although early in the movement the [illegible] offered to pay rent as we bec[illegible] [illegible]sti[illegible]ated th[illegible] offer of money was understood implicit[illegible]y or explicitly to mean that all money was for the people to use to run and manage the building which now belonged to them.

"For me personally, having had my mind brain-washed in the legal system, this meant a complete reevaluation of the property values which I had learned in law school and which I had applied while I was working for a judge who occasionally sat in landlord-tenant court."

A woman whose squatter apartment is the best home she's ever had says: "We know our own needs. The city doesn't know. We put our money together, we fix the building, we clean the building up. We have a little community kitchen that we are starting for the people who don't have stoves or refridgerators because the city tore them up.

"We have an office that we work out of and for people to come to if they want to register and get an apartment. We also have some doctors who are medical aides. So that in each building we will have a medical aide for emergencies. There are all kinds of people from all backgrounds and there is only one thing we have in common: we are all poor and we are all working together to have a place to live.

"Throughout the years it has been 'Let's Keep the poor people fighting among themselves. I'm better than you because I am Irish or Puerto Rican or white, I'm Dominican or black, or you're from the West Indies.' That always kept us fighting amongst each other so we wouldn't get together and take a look at what is happening with the government.

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BLACK PRISONER THOMAS WANSLEY, FALSELY ACCUSED OF RAPING A WHITE WOMAN, FREED AFTER 10 YEARS

RICHMOND, Va., (LNS) -- Thomas Wansley, sentenced to death at the age of 17 for the rape of a white woman who was "not too sure" he was her attacker, has recently been freed after 10 years in prison.

The history behind Wansley's case goes way back to the early 60's when black people were in the streets of Lynchburg, Virginia, protesting the segregation of public facilities. During this highly charged, emotional period, Annie Lee Carter, a 59 year old white woman said that a black man had raped her. The police launched a massive man-hund which ended with the arrest of Thomas Wansley.

At the time, Wansley was working in a restaurant, just after dropping out of high school. He was not involved in the civil rights movement, but he sensed the explosiveness of the situation and described it accurately:

"Get a Negro -- any Negro -- and kill him. Burn him for raping white women -- our women. So you see, someone had to cry -- someone had to die. And hence, I became the victim of circumstances."

His first trial was in 1962. At that time, Annie Lee Carter testified that she was "not too sure" Wansley was the man who had raped her. Wansley was convicted however and sentenced to death.

Hundreds of people from the black community protested the trial and created the Wansley Defense Committee, bringing in now defense lawyers who succeeded in overturning the conviction.

The second trial was declared a mistrial. At the third trial, in 1967, five years since Wansley's first conviction, Annie Lee Carter was able to positively identify him as her attacker.

"Naturally, I've seen his picture in the papers," she said, "and I've seen him in court since then."

The newspapers again began to play on racist hysteria, and declared Wansley's guilt before the trial, branding his lawyers "communists" for agreeing to defend him. About half of the prospective jurors admitted that they were convinced of Wansley's guilt from the papers.

So it came as no surprise that Wansley was again convicted. This time he was sentenced to life imprisonment.

In January, 1973, after Wansley had been in jail for 10 years, a federal judge reversed the 1967 conviction on the grounds that hysteria had created by the press had made a fair trial impossible. Wansley's attorneys returned to Lynchburg to arrange for his release on bail. The night befor the hearing, 500 residents attended a rally in his support.

However, the judge refused bail. He was convinced of Wansley's guilt, and claimed that his release would "endanger the safety of every woman in Virginia."

At a second hearing in Richmond on January 17 where several black Lynchburg residents packed the courtroom, a federal judge released Wansley on $10,000 bail. However, the Commonwelath of Virginia is appealing the reversal of Wansley's conviction to the U.S. Court of Appeals. The state has said it will go to the U.S. Supreme Court if necessary to reaffirm Wansley's conviction.

As William Kunstler, one of Wansley's lawyers, pointed out: "Wansley is representative of thousands who have cried out in the silence of the jail cell, who have been killed, unnumbered and unknown. And the only difference is that we know

(CONTINUED ON THE INSIDE FRONT COVER.............)

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P.O.W.

Top right: Photo taken during the Squatters' action in N.Y.C. in the summer of 1970.

See story on page 9 of this packet.

Credit: LNS Women's Graphics Collective

Top left: Photo taken during the Squatters' action in N.Y.C. in the summer of 1970.

See story on page 9 of this packet.

Credit: Bob Brooks/LNS

Bottom left: Photo from a demonstration following the murder of Larry Casuse by Gallup, N.M. police.

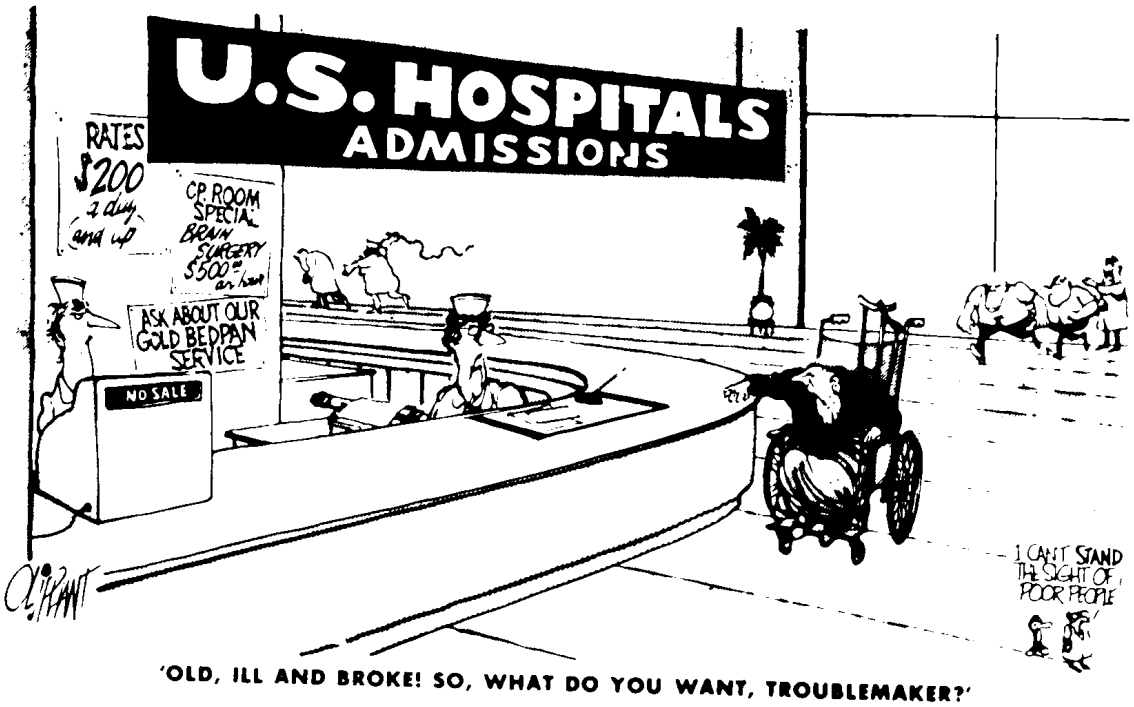
See story on page 12 of packet #506.

Credit: Seer's Catalog/LNS

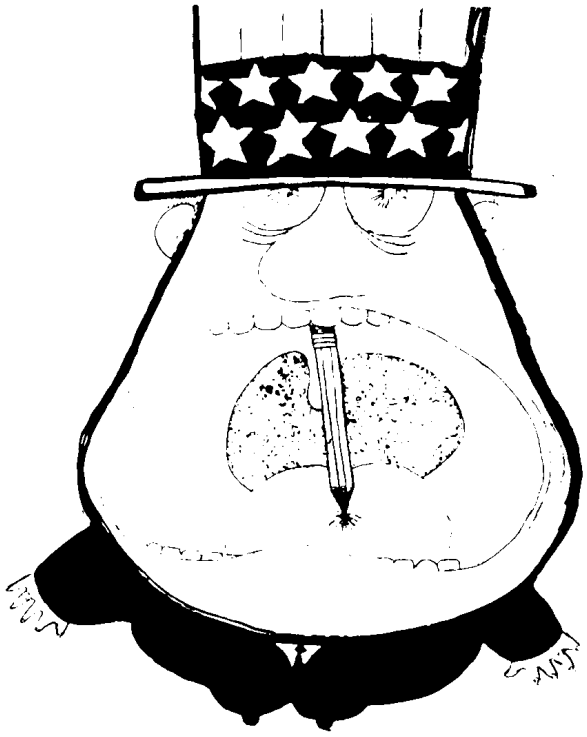
Bottom right: Photo taken during the Squatters' action in N.Y.C. in the summer of 1970.

See story on page 9 of this packet.

Credit: LNS Women's Graphics Collective



'OLD, ILL AND BROKE! SO, WHAT DO YOU WANT, TROUBLEMAKER?'



[illegible] for sale.
[illegible] (#507).
CREDIT: [illegible]

TOP LEFT: Another hospital admissions cartoon.
CAN BE USED WITH STORY PAGE 10, PACKET #503.
CREDIT: Oliphant/ DAILY COLLEGIAN/LNS

MIDDLE RIGHT: U.S. spearing itself with its own pencil.
CREDIT: Pedro Mendez/OCLAE/LNS

MIDDLE LEFT: Aid?
CREDIT: John Nichols/SEER'S CATALOGUE/LNS

BOTTOM RIGHT: Woodcut of woman.
CREDIT:Irene Peslikis/WOMEN & ART/LNS

BOTTOM LEFT: This graphic can be used with stories of women and mental health or stories smashing the comic-book image of women.
CREDIT: OFF OUR BACKS/LNS